(c) whether Government have instructed the State Government to maintain register of the educated unemployed youths in these districts alongwith the list of others; and

(d) the programme suggested for these educated unemployed youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Funds have been released in respect of all the 200 identified districts for implementation of NREG Act. An amount of Rs. 236756.74 lakh had been released to these districts upto 31st March, 2006.

(c) and (d) The NREG Act guarantees 100 days of wage employment to every rural household for unskilled manual work on demand. Employment to educated unemployed youths does not fall within the purview of this Act.

Assessment of BPL families in Uttaranchal

3477. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the method and the criteria for assessing a BPL person or a family in hilly and most backward area in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether this assessment is being done every year and how the common people are informed about it;

(c) whether there is any increase or decrease in BPL persons/families in the State of Uttaranchal during last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Estimation of Poverty in the country including the hilly and backward areas is done by the Planning Commission through the quinquennial Sample Survey of Consumption Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The Planning Commission has defined poverty in terms of the per capita monthly expenditure corresponding to per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined in this way covers the

expenditure on food and non-food items, such as, fuel, clothing, housing, health education and social services. These Estimates of Poverty are available at the State level as well as national level for the year 1999-2000.

The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States and the UTs to conduct the BPL Census in the beginning of every Five Year Plan to identify the poor households in the rural areas who could be targeted under the programmes of the Ministry. For BPL Census, 2002 the methodology of score based ranking of households as recommended by the Expert Group has been used which is based on 13-socio economic scoreable parameters such as size of land holding, type of house, clothes, food security, sanitation literacy, means of livelihood, etc. In order to ensure the transparency, the BPL list based on the Census 2002 can only be finalized with the approval of Gram Sabha and a mechanism has also been provided to address the objections of the people.

According to Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 of Planning Commission 37.44% of rural population is living below the Poverty Line in Uttaranchal. Since Uttaranchal happens to be newly created State, therefore, separate Poverty Estimates for the previous Rounds of Survey are not available.

Textile parks in Tamil Nadu

3478. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up textile parks at Madurai and Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Government has launched the 'Scheme for Integrated Textile parks (SITP)' to provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units. This scheme is based on Public Private-Partnership (PPP) and would facilitate textile units to meet international standards. Industry Association/ Group of Entrepreneurs would be the main promoters of the Integrated Textile Parks.